

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KNABE

March 21, 2006

The Board of Supervisors is committed to providing each foster youth in Los Angeles County with an adult mentor. Foster children are among the neediest of the County's youth and can derive great benefit from a strong mentoring relationship. A mentor can provide the additional support, guidance and friendship that are often lacking in a foster child's life. With the aid of a healthy, trusting relationship between a committed, caring adult mentor and a foster youth, there is the promise of an easier and more successful transition out of the child welfare system to independence, a life with less uncertainty, free from homelessness, crime and a better chance for the youth to become a happy productive citizen who may one day mentor another vulnerable youth.

MORE

MOTION

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Mentors freely donate their valuable time and skills to improve the well-being of deserving youth. However, conducting criminal background checks for potential mentors is costly, timely and creates a barrier to recruiting mentors. Assembly Bill (AB) 1979 (Bass) would waive the fees for conducting criminal background checks to any non-profit agency that provides mentoring services for foster youth. Enactment of this legislation will facilitate recruiting and placing mentors with foster youth in Los Angeles County.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Support AB 1979 (Bass) and instruct the County's Legislative lobbyists in Sacramento to pursue the County's position on this bill.

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